

The American Library in Paris

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The American Library in Paris honors
Embers of War by Fredrik Logevall
as winner of its first annual book award

For immediate release

15 November 2013

PARIS. *Embers of War: The Fall of an Empire and the Making of America's Vietnam*, by Fredrik Logevall, is the winner of the first American Library in Paris Book Award.

The annual prize honors the most distinguished book of the year about France or the French-American encounter, and carries a cash award of \$5,000.

The jury for the award, drawn from the American Library's Writers Council, was composed of authors Julian Barnes, Adam Gopnik, and Diane Johnson. They cited *Embers of War*, published by Random House, for its "scholarly elegance and fascinating contribution to history, its thematic relevance for an American institution in France, and its cautionary pertinence at the present."

The other books on the shortlist were:

- *The Illusion of Separateness*, by Simon van Booy. Harper (fiction)
- *Cezanne: A Life*, by Alex Danchev, Pantheon (biography)
- *The Black Count: Glory, Revolution, Betrayal, and the Real Count of Monte Cristo*, by Tom Reiss. Crown. (biography).
- *How the French Invented Love: Nine Hundred Years of Passion and Romance*, by Marilyn Yalom. Harper. (essays)

The book award ceremony took place in Paris at the George C. Marshall Center in the presence of the author. Logevall is John S. Knight Professor of International Studies at Cornell University, where he is also vice provost for international affairs and director of the Mario Einaudi Center for

International Studies. *Embers of War* previously won the Pulitzer Prize in History.

The award is supported by a grant from the Florence Gould Foundation. This first award is for books originally published between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013.

Book-length prose works originally written in English, including but not limited to fiction, history, biography, travel, politics, cooking, and art, were eligible for the award. Forty-five submissions were received in 2013, and nominations are already open for the 2014 award.

The American Library in Paris was founded in 1920 with books sent by American libraries to United States personnel serving in World War I. It has since grown to more than 120,000 volumes, making it the largest English-language library on the European continent, and perhaps in any non-English-speaking country in the world.

The Library's international membership enjoys reading rooms, research facilities, book groups, children's programming, art workshops, film screenings, community events, and the city's best-known stage for appearances by distinguished authors.

In addition to Barnes, Gopnik, and Johnson, the Library's Writers Council consists of Laurent de Brunhoff, Christopher Buckley, Sebastian Faulks, Laura Furman, Mavis Gallant, Alice Kaplan, Philippe Labro, Joyce Carol Oates, William Jay Smith, Lily Tuck, and Scott Turow.

"The Florence Gould Foundation has done so much to further French-American understanding and to assist the historic American institutions in Paris," said Charles Trueheart, director of the Library. "We're grateful for what its enthusiastic support of the prize will mean for the Library - and for fine writing about France."

For more about the Library, please visit our website at americanlibraryinparis.org

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